Allotment of Plots on Lease by DDA

*492. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that DDA has allotted a number of plots on lease;

(b) if so, whether allottees, are not depositing lease-amount regularly;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Some of the lessees are not depositing the annual ground rent regularly. Where the ground rent is not deposited by the lessees regularly, it is recoverable along with simple interest @ 10% per annum. According to the information received from DDA, defaulter notices are issued from time to time for recovery of these arrears. Whenever the residential properties are converted from leasehold to freehold, the arrears of ground rent, if any, along with interest are also being recovered before allowing conversion.

Interest payable by Manufacturing Company etc.

*493. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued notification to reduce the maximum permissible interest payable by manufacturing companies and non-banking financial companies from 15 per cent to 14 per cent per annum; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government *vide* Notification GSR 385(E) dated 24-5-2001 have in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India amended clause (c) of sub-rule (1) of rule 3 of Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules, 1975 reducing the maximum interest payable on deposits by Non-Banking Non-Financial Companies from 15 per cent to 14 per cent per annum.

*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

This has been done taking into account prevailing interest rates in the entire financial systems and interest rates payable on deposits by NBFCs.

'Escort Service' for Common Man Visiting DDA

*494. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an 'Escort Service' to help common man visiting the office of Delhi Development Authority in Vikas Sadan;

(b) if so, the nature of service to be provided by Escort Service; and

(c) by when this service is likely to become functional ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) DDA offices are open to the public every Monday and Thursday afternoon when they can meet senior officers without fixing prior appointment. On other days, they may meet senior officers by appointment. For on the spot guidance, DDA has provided services of a number of Counsellors and Facilitators at its reception desk to help the common people.

(b) DDA has recently decided to upgrade these services and increase the number of Counsellors for better personal guidance and service to the public visiting Vikas Sadan. The Counsellors will help in preparation of the documents, guide them about the procedures and provide ready information on various subjects/policies.

(c) The service is already being provided. DDA has only decided to increase the number of counsellors/facilitators gradually after due training.

Social Evil of Scavenging

*495. SHRI R.N. ARYA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to tackle the social evil of scavenging;

(b) if so, the number of scavengers in the country;

*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.